

Preparing for and organizing the new Ford County Public Health Department is underway.

Your input and expertise are needed in developing the Community Health IPLAN for the newly forming Ford County Public Health Department and Iroquois County Public Health Department. Many of you may have participated in the planning or development phase of the Ford-Iroquois IPLAN in the past. As we strive to build two individual health departments, it is necessary to construct two new IPLAN documents that reflect the health needs of each individual county.

Our first meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. Initially, we will meet as a unified group for definition and explanation of the IPLAN process. A breakout session will follow the initial part of the meeting. Breakout sessions will allow individual counties to prioritize the health needs and goals of their respective community.

It is vitally important that each county have appropriate representation, so we are encouraging each of you to extend this invitation to other community members/partners that you feel may have appropriate input. We would also appreciate your forethought and any factual data that you may have through your community services that would show any health needs that are not currently being met. Please RSVP your intent to attend, so that we are prepared with enough space for comfortable brainstorming.

Your input is valuable! Without your help, we will not be able to appropriately fulfill the needs of this task going forward for the developing health departments. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

There are many people who are required to be brought to the table in this planning process including citizens of different races and ethnic origins; medical community; mental health organizations; cooperative extension service; schools; social service organizations; substance abuse clinics; law enforcement agencies; voluntary agencies; clergy; chamber of commerce; unions; economic developmental agencies; senior citizens and other appropriate organized community groups.

If you are interested in assisting in this process please contact me at:

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Thank you

Rick Bowen